

November / December 2023

The specialist international magazine for theme parks and FECs

InterPark

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Dark Rides Special

Open to Question
Clair Haines,
Great Coasters Int.

Report
A look back at IAAPA
Expo Europe

Industry News
Big Dipper
celebrates 100 years

MACK RIDES PRESENTS

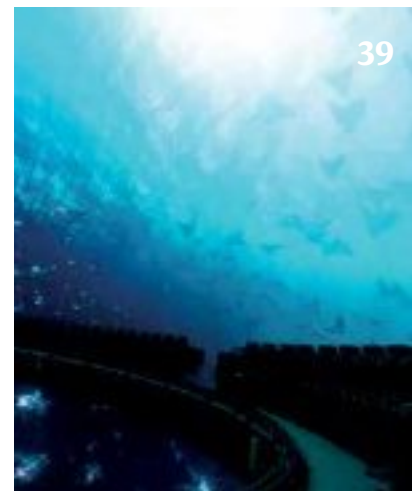
TWIST ,N' SPLASH



TØNNEVIRVEL



Interactive water action now is available for water parks - the Twist 'n' Splash features a water battle that is perfect for all ages. The free floating barrels pass by the many water cannons surrounding the ride and everyone is becoming part of the action. Learn more about Tonnevirvel and other attractions of Mack Rides at www.mack-rides.com



Welcome to the Nov/Dec issue of InterPark!

I can't quite believe how quickly this year has gone but somehow, this is the last issue of InterPark before we leap into a New Year! The amusements and attractions industry is, as always, saying goodbye to the old and welcoming in the new as it always does - with manufacturers making last minute preparation for their product announcements and project launches at the internationally renowned IAAPA Orlando Expo in the US. The InterPark team can't wait to see what the best of the best will present at this year's trade show... and we're looking forward to hearing all about the latest park installations and signings live from the show floor.

Speaking of IAAPA Expos, you will notice that a large section of this issue has been dedicated to the latest news coming out of the IAAPA Europe Expo, held this year in Vienna, Austria. InterPark's news editor, David Whitworth joined our Managing Director John Fosbrooke at the show and if you turn to page 24 you will find some of his top news picks and product launches from the abundance of material he picked up while visiting the event - perhaps a preview into what we can expect to see in Florida! Elsewhere in this issue, as you will have spotted, our front cover features a wonderful new Dark Ride project from a collaboration between Sally Dark Rides and Alterface - Treasure Hunt. With technologies in this sector continuing to push the boundaries of what can be achieved, we cover the latest and greatest project installations in our dedicated dark rides feature on page 39

And for this issue's Open to Question, I got the opportunity to sit down with Great Coasters International's Clair Haines. As the go-to manufacturers of quality wooden roller coasters for over 25 years, it was an honour to speak with the man behind the magic. You can read the full interview on page 52.

And that - as they say - is a wrap! To all of our readers, editorial contributors, and advertisers, thank you for being part of the past 12 months. This is your magazine for your industry and we hope you've found the content both useful and entertaining. To the hard working editorial team and production department, an even bigger thanks, as the magazine wouldn't be what it is without you! Now, go and put your feet up with a nice cup of tea (glass of mulled wine) and brace yourselves for the onslaught of news from Orlando to rumble in... See you all on the other side!

Beth Whitaker

Beth Whitaker Editor

Nov & Dec 2023

- 5 EUROPE NEWS**
- 8 AMERICA NEWS**
- 12 ASIA NEWS**
- 16 CHINA NEWS**
- 20 MIDDLE EAST NEWS**
- 22 WATERPARKS NEWS**
- 25 SHOW NEWS**
the latest from IAAPA Europe exhibitors
- 39 DARK RIDES FOCUS**
We bring you the latest project installations, industry news and product launches.
- 50 COMMENT**
The ADIPS Conference examines safety issues and initiatives in the amusement industry.
- 52 OPEN TO QUESTION**
We get to know the man behind Great Coasters International, Clair Haines
- 56 COMMENT**
Dennis Spiegel looks closer at the phenomenon that is Halloween season.
- 58 EVENTS DIARY**





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A centenary of joy for the beloved Big Dipper

A century of rides, journeys, fun and adventure was acknowledged on Wednesday 23 August when Big Dipper at Blackpool Pleasure Beach officially turned 100 years old.

A birthday party befitting of the grand rickety ride took place with speeches, DJ and saxophonist, dancers and over 200 invited guests came to enjoy a special night of riding the centurion Big Dipper. CEO of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Amanda Thompson OBE said at Big Dipper's centenary party: "Although this coaster may be a veteran among the park, it's a truly enjoyable ride, and we hope that its recent 'glow-up' will reinstate its position as a grand wooden coaster that is rich with history and a century full of memories and laughs.

"A coaster as monumental as our Big Dipper deserves nothing less than the glamorous party we intend on throwing, and we want everyone else to celebrate with us. It is set to be an evening filled with fun!"

It was a party to celebrate its steeped heritage but also to show off its latest refresh - works on the 100-year-old coaster began earlier this year including a new painted design to the ride's famous onion and general maintenance on its track and structure.



Big Dipper - 1963 ©Images: Blackpool Pleasure Beach



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Europe News

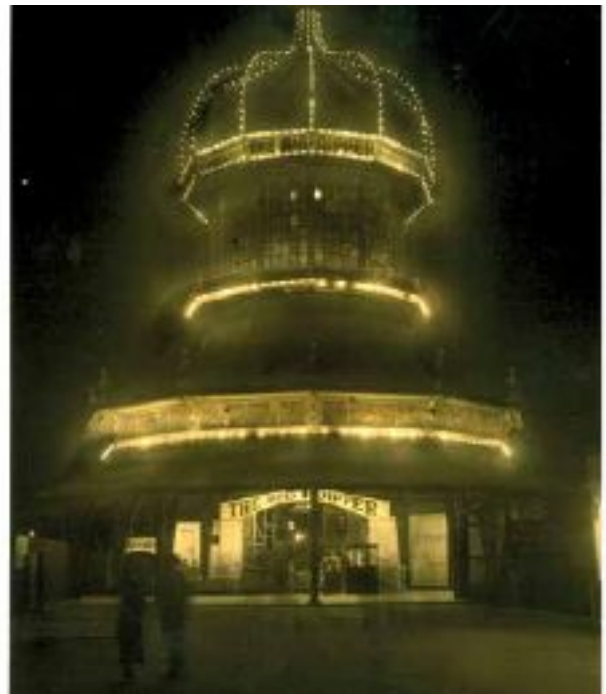
The latest news and announcements

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Big Dipper has a storied trajectory, dating back to 23 August, 1923 when the ride was constructed by William H Strickler and designed by John A Miller, and opened for £25,000. Due to its durability, Big Dipper holds the title as one of Britain's oldest continuously in use rollercoasters and is one of the oldest rides in the world. Its iconic status has seen millions of people step aboard the famous train to experience this white-knuckle ride and adrenalin-filled journey littered with big drops and exhilarating turns.

Along the years, the out and back attraction would receive a refresh to fit the era. Yet the ride itself would stay authentic, raw and hair-raising. From the very first drop you feel out of control yet strangely in control. The ride navigates from north-to-south, weaving in between the Steeplechase and Icon and passes through the stanchions of the Big One lift hill. It is still regarded as one of the best in the world. Big Dipper is actually a Grade II Listed Building, listed on 19 April 2017.

Its origins can be traced to the Victorian era, which created a tourism explosion where leisure entertainment venues



Big Dipper September 1923



Big Dipper Advertising September 1924

were cropping up throughout the land. And with Blackpool's prime location on the coastline, the town started attracting holidaymakers from all over the country. A Londoner called William George Bean saw an opportunity to get on the tourism bandwagon and created Hotchkiss Bicycle Railroad on the sand dunes at South Shore in 1896. During his time at Coney Island, his experience helped Blackpool grow as a tourist hotspot and popularity grew at his park.

The attraction of sun, sandy beaches and pioneering entertainment meant that by 1923, Blackpool Pleasure Beach was an established amusement park, with a number of exciting rides and attractions, namely Big Dipper. In 1934, it was reconstructed by American Engineer Charles Paige, which saw the extension of the track. The ride was manufactured by Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc and rises up to 65ft (20m) at its tallest. Its track length is 3,295ft (1,004m) and reaches a maximum speed of 35mph (56km/h). Up to 672 riders can ride Big Dipper hourly. The attraction operates on two lift hills and one simultaneous chain, a unique mechanism.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach had entered its golden age by the 1930s and by this time Big Dipper was a famous structure in the park, sitting alongside some other notable favourites such as Sir Hiram Maxim's Flying Machines, River Caves and Noah's Ark. Indeed, the ride has lived through some



Big Dipper - August 1953

momentous times - namely The Second World War, which put a halt to progress at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Yet the park remained open and gave an escapism to thousands of evacuees, service personnel and the British public. Fast forward to nowadays and Big Dipper takes its place among the largest collection of wooden rollercoasters of any park in the UK with four: Big Dipper, Blue Flyer, Grand National and Nickelodeon Streak. Blackpool Pleasure Beach also offers an experience named 'Walk the Woodie', in which the general public can walk along its wooden structure safely secured and learn more about its history.

Big Dipper has welcomed celebrity guests throughout its years from Diana Dors to Robbie Williams. Indeed, The wondrous woodie is a record breaker thanks to the voyages of one Richard Rodriguez, the marathon man of roller coasting. The American holds the prestigious Guinness Book of Records award for the longest time spent on the ride when he spent 1,013 hours or 23 continuous days onboard in August 1998. To commemorate the achievement, there is a plaque celebrating this event in the ride's station. "I'm on top of the world. It's a great day, I now want to celebrate with the rest of humanity and the great people of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, said Richard Rodriguez upon finishing his record-breaking roller coaster feat. "I feel great now, I'm on an emotional high." During his roller coasting exploits, he was allowed to build up five-minute breaks for every hour he rode to take longer naps, shower, and replenish energy with one hot meal a day. Rodriguez would even get used to sleeping on Big Dipper at night and learned to live with the loud sounds and twisting motions. "The first week was the hardest but your body adapts to its environment," added Rodriguez.



Big Dipper 1952

Further records on Big Dipper include 32 thrill-seekers with an average age of 75 rode the ride to break the world record for the oldest rollercoaster riders back in 2003. It was in aid of National Grandparents Day, where its hearty riders with a combined age of 2,408 enjoyed a unique day out. All the riders came from the local area to break the record.

Founded by William George Bean in 1896, Blackpool Pleasure Beach continues to be a family run business which is now in its fourth generation, owned and managed by CEO Amanda Thompson OBE, who will be proud of the legacy Big Dipper has created.

Reaching its centenary milestone shows the longevity of the ride which continues to be popular for guests of all ages. The roller coaster which has made a big impression on many a guest aims to create even bigger memories for years to come.

America News

The latest news and announcements

1 DOLLYWOOD'S LIGHTNING ROD GETS UPGRADE

Lightning Rod, the world's fastest and only launched wooden coaster upon its opening in August 2015, will be refitted for the 2024 season.

During the off-peak season in the winter, **Dollywood** is to install a high-speed chain lift to reduce the downtime that has plagued Lightning Rod in recent times. As part of the refit, a new set of carriages will be introduced to the hybrid coaster, created by Rocky Mountain Construction (RMC).

The second coming of Lightning Rod will race along at speeds of up to 73mph (117km/h), just like its predecessor. Its main feature consists of riders haring down a 165ft drop making for a pure adrenaline thrill.

Dollywood revealed in a press release that, "to provide guests with a more consistent and efficient ride experience, Lightning Rod will close for the season on 30 October for crews to install a variable frequency chain lift in place of its linear synchronous motor (LSM) launch system. Despite the



removal of the launch system, once the coaster trains reach the first drop, the ride experience will remain the same as it is currently. The ride is scheduled to reopen Spring 2024."





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America News

The latest news and announcements

2 SIX FLAGS IMPLEMENTS AMAZON CASHIERLESS SHOPS

Six Flags Magic Mountain park in Los Angeles has partnered with Amazon and Coca-Cola to create cashier-less shops featuring Amazon's Just Walk Out checkout-free shopping technology.

This is set to be the second Six Flags theme park to adopt the technology after Six Flags Great Adventure park in Jackson opened the first during Memorial Day weekend 2023.

A strategic alliance between Six Flags, Amazon and Coca-Cola enables customers to enter the store using their credit card at the entrance. The Just Walk Out technology uses generative AI computer technology sensors and detection to compute what shoppers take from or return to the shelves, creating a virtual shopping session. This concept was first introduced in Amazon Go convenience stores and later expanded to Amazon Fresh and Whole Foods supermarkets.

3 BUSCH GARDENS ANNOUNCES NEW FAMILY COASTER FOR 2024



Busch Gardens has announced a family inverted coaster called **Phoenix Rising** will open at the park in 2024.

Manufactured by Bolliger & Mabillard, Phoenix Rising will be a family-friendly suspended roller coaster. It will take riders at speeds up to 44mph (71km/h) throughout the 1,831ft (558-metres) journey. As the rides' minimum height is 42ins (1.07-metres), Phoenix Rising will be an ideal ride for families to share together.

The roller coaster made by B&M will be the manufacturer's fourth to be located at Busch Gardens Tampa alongside Kumba, Montu, and SheiKra.



"Our goal is to elevate our customers' experience and allow them to spend more time making memories instead of standing in line," said Stephanie Borges, global VP of Six Flags. "This collaboration marks a turning point in theme parks, bringing together innovative technology and captivating attractions to create the ultimate experience for our customers."

Meanwhile, Rachel Chahal, director of amusement and 'eatertainment' partnerships at The Coca-Cola Company, commented: "From the moment we learned about Amazon's Just Walk Out technology, we saw an opportunity to ensure Coca-Cola was a part of this experience. We are proud of the inaugural launch of the Six Flags Great Adventure store earlier this summer and look forward to success on the West Coast."

"Phoenix Rising will be an extraordinary journey for our seasoned coaster enthusiasts and younger thrill-seekers alike," said Stewart Clark, president of Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. "Joining a comprehensive coaster collection, this new attraction reinforces our commitment to provide guests with new, immersive and one-of-a-kind experiences."

The inverted thrill ride is set to be a notable addition to the roller coaster ranks - being the tenth ride at Busch Gardens Tampa. The ride will soar over the Pantopia area of the park with beautiful views over the Serengeti Plain. The suspended roller coaster will give robust flexibility and movement for its riders as it swings from side to side in a smooth manner. To heighten senses, Phoenix Rising will be the first roller coaster at Busch Gardens Tampa to feature on-board audio with a bespoke soundtrack, making for a truly immersive ride.

The origins of the ride's name Phoenix Rising hark back to a looping starship attraction curated by Intamin called Phoenix. The ride was in operation for 34 years beginning in 1984 until its final ride in 2018.

Earlier on this year, Busch Gardens Tampa removed the wild mouse coaster Sand Serpent to pave the way for the new coaster.



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Asia News

The latest news and announcements

1 YOKOHAMA WELCOMES MITSUBISHI-LED THEME PARK



Japan's capital city will be the future home to a new theme park in the shape of what is nicknamed **Kamiseya Park**.

The new entertainment venue in Japan has been in the pipeline since 2020 when Yokohama unveiled a project to accommodate a new theme park on the site of an abandoned military base belonging to the Navy's Kamiseya Communication Installation.

Mitsubishi Estate Co., a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Group, is behind the grand plans for Kamiseya Park, located in the suburb of Kamiseya, which has been transformed over time into a sustainable and technologically advanced area. It is estimated to welcome more than 12 million guests in year one, which will rise to 15 million people thereafter annually. It is slated to open in 2031.

Mitsubishi Estate, which was the only company to submit a plan for the 170-acres site, was granted permission to proceed with the project by the Yokohama Government. The name of the park has not yet been disclosed, only running by its nickname Kamiseya Park. The theme park will showcase the best of Japanese culture and house a live entertainment area as well as be a pioneering destination for technological innovations.

As part of the infrastructure, it has been announced that a new subway station called Kamiseya Station is to be created. The 17-acre area station area will include convenience stores and restaurants whereas a bus terminal will be also built to



shuttle visitors to and from the theme park to wider parts of Yokohama, located 16 miles (20km) to the east of the theme park. The transport hub is scheduled to open in 2027 in time for the delivery of the theme park four years later. This would be the same year as the International Horticultural Expo, which will be held in the same area as the theme park.

Kamiseya Park will have nature at its heart too with a green area consisting of parks and walking paths which the general public will be able to access.

The Mitsubishi-lead theme park aims to rival the titans of Japanese theme parks of Tokyo Disneyland and Universal Studios Japan.

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Asia News

The latest news and announcements

2 JAPAN'S NINTENDO MUSEUM GETS OPENING DATE



Fans of the much-loved Nintendo games featuring Mario and Co will soon have a new way to engage with the world's most famous plumber.

The computer game giant has revealed that the old Nintendo Uji Ogura Plant in Kyoto, Japan is to be transformed into an exhibition of all things Nintendo.

Under the name '**Nintendo Museum**' work towards a "new gallery to showcase the many products Nintendo has launched over its history" is underway; the museum is set to open in March 2024. As part of the launch, Nintendo unveiled an image of its famous question block, which will adorn the museum's roof.

Furthermore, it is said to have "been discussing building a gallery as a way to share the company's product development history and philosophy with the public. To this end, the Nintendo Uji Ogura Plant will be renovated to accommodate the gallery, a decision reached after taking into consideration The City of Uji's plan to redevelop the nearby Ogura Station area."

The Nintendo Uji Ogura Plant was built in 1969, originally known as the 'Uji Plant.' The name of the facility changed to 'Uji Ogura Plant' in 1988, when the plans were to extend and renovate the formerly named Uji Plant (Makishima-cho, Uji-city, Kyoto). The functions of the Uji Ogura Plant included manufacturing playing cards and Hanafuda cards respectively. It also operated as a customer service centre for product repairs; and since November 2016, there have been plans in the pipeline to transform the Uji Plant into what we now know will be the Nintendo Museum.


The confirmation of the museum is another milestone into the storied history of the company, which is going through a renaissance thanks to positioning the name of Nintendo beyond its video games and enter the wider world; a case in point being the opening of the Super Nintendo World themed land in Osaka, which landed at Universal Studios Japan on 18 March, 2021 and Super Nintendo World Hollywood on 17 February, 2023. The parks feature the world's first interaction Mario Kart themed ride as well as a variety of interactive experiences with Mario and Co on hand. Add to this the opening of The Super Mario Bros. Movie as well as another Nintendo Live event in Seattle means that fans of the franchise can connect and interact with Nintendo more than ever before.

Through branching out to theme parks, museums and live events, the allure of Nintendo is shining brighter than ever in attracting a new legion of fans to add to the original nostalgic lovers.

Whether you are a new or older fan, everyone can acknowledge the storied history of Nintendo, which was founded on 23 September, 1889 under the pioneering leadership of Fusajiro Yamauchi. Originally named Yamauchi Nintendo, the business focussed on 'Hanafuda' or flower cards, at the Nintendo Koppai shop. It was a time when card games were banned in Japan due to the Japanese government seeing card games as a form of gambling, apart from Yamauchi's playing cards. Over time, Hanafuda became hugely popular in Kyoto and expanded to Osaka and other regions of Japan. This card game would lead to the worldwide revolution we know as the Nintendo video games today.

The company has sold more than five billion video games and more than 790 million hardware units across the world.





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China News

The latest news and announcements

1 WORLD OF FROZEN SET FOR HONG KONG



Hong Kong Disneyland has confirmed that the anticipated World of Frozen themed land will open on 20 November.

The area is based on the worldwide acclaimed animated films Frozen and Frozen 2. Attractions include features at Summer Snow Day, the day that Princess Anna saved Elsa, and the Kingdom with an act of love.

“World of Frozen is an integral part of the park’s latest expansion and growth,” said Michael Moriarty, MD of Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

Guests can also meet Elsa at her Ice Palace, travel onboard Wandering Oaken’s Sliding Sleighs and enjoy the Playhouse in the Woods, an interactive play area.

Following a difficult few years, things are brightening up for Hong Kong Disneyland due to the re-opening of Hong Kong’s international borders following the ending of the city’s strict Covid measures.

2 FLIP FLYING THEATRE DEBUTS AT TAIAN SHANDONG

Jinma Rides’ latest attraction comes in the shape of the Flip Flying Theatre.

The flying motion experience is located in Taian, Shandong, which benefits from a population of more than five million people.

Jinma Rides will provide a thrilling and cutting-edge journey with three DOF gondolas. The Flip Flying Theater holds 96 guests and features a HD customised film with multiple special effects and experiences, which Taian says, “flies you to the peak”.

Flip Flying is produced by Jinma Rides using its FY-63A model belonging to its flying theatre family.

The Chinese amusement manufacturer explains that, “other than rows of traditional seatings mounted on the huge platform, we use futuristic flying motorcycles as carriers. By matching up media to the motions enabled by our elaborately engineered riding system, this flying theatre definitely delivers the most unique ride experience to all guests.

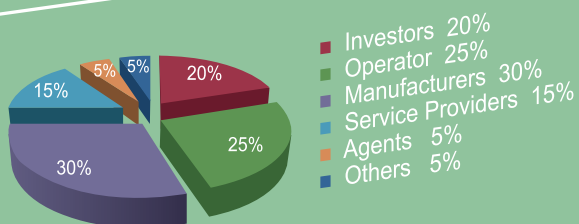


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China News

The latest news and announcements

3 ZOOTOPIA OPENING AT SHANGHAI DISNEYLAND

An eagerly anticipated themed area is approaching its big opening later this year with Zootopia arriving at Shanghai Disneyland.

Zootopia will be familiar with animated film fans due to its highly popular release in 2016 - grossing JBY1.53bn (£188m), making it the most successful imported animated feature of all time in China. Due to its huge popularity, Disney worked on a theme land based on the film at its Shanghai resort. "Today marks a pivotal milestone as we prepare to enter our next chapter," said Joe Schott, president and general manager of Shanghai Disney Resort upon revealing the news of its creation. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to bring its stories and characters to life in the world's first and only Zootopia-themed land, right here in Shanghai.

"Over the years of development, diverse minds, and talent from around the globe from more than 140 disciplines

worked tirelessly to create a unique 'mammalian' experience for our guests, immersing them in this metropolis' vibrant animal world.

"We are extremely proud of what they've created and confident that everyone will be amazed from their very first step into Zootopia."

Zootopia promises to be at the vanguard of entertainment and technology - demonstrated by Disney imagineers utilising the latest in audio-animatronics technology to bring characters to life within the Zootopia land at the Zootopia press preview in September. This robotic technology gives the characters of Zootopia a likeness to real people, which is unparalleled.

"We collaborated closely with Walt Disney Animation Studios to meticulously capture the essence of each character, ensuring their core movements and even the tiniest facial expressions were faithfully recreated," explained Xu Chang, producer with Walt Disney Imagineering Shanghai. "Additionally, every audio-animatronics character has been adorned with custom-tailored vintage costumes, staying true to the looks from the movie."

Every new themed area created needs a flagship attraction and Zootopia: Hot Pursuit is the jewel in the crown of Zootopia. An innovative trackless ride system, guests will be sent on a mission to rescue the city's singing star Gazelle from her kidnapper, Bellwether, thanks to the company of characters Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde.

Beyond the rides, the theming continues with its food and beverages, with Jumbeaux's Cafe, the elephant-run ice cream shop from the film, taking centre stage.

The Zootopia area will be an authentically Disney themed area, bringing the city to life like never before yet remaining faithful to Chinese culture and Shanghai heritage through road layout, traffic systems and signage from the local region.

And living in Disney's Zootopia will be its residents and fabled characters, including Fru Fru and her father Mr Big, Koslov the polar bear, Flash the sloth, Yax the yak, and Duke Weaselton the weasel.

Zootopia at Shanghai Disney Resort will open on December 20, 2023..





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Middle East News

The latest news and announcements



1 SEVEN MADINAH AMUSEMENT PARK UNDERWAY

Construction has started on Saudi Entertainment Ventures' (SEVEN) amusement park in the west region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The **SEVEN Madinah** amusement park will be located next to King Fahad Central Park and cover more than 100,000sqm.

The Madinah amusement park will house a 10-lane bowling alley, bumper cars, and roller coaster. Speed along the 330-metres of e-karting track spanning two levels. An IMAX cinema will provide guests further fun and laughter.

SEVEN Madinah amusement park is also going to create 'Discovery Adventures' where there will be a nature themed area that will consist of rope bridges and treehouse trails. An investment of £10bn is being overseen by SEVEN in

creating 21 entertainment destinations in 14 cities throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



2 MIRAL UNVEILS CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY



Miral Beach Cleanup

Miral has unveiled plans for a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy focused on ‘creating positive impact across society’

Miral says the strategy will “implement over 80 economic, social and environment initiatives and programmes over the next two years, across the business and all the Group’s subsidiaries.”

Upon the announcement, Mohamed Abdalla Al Zaabi, Group CEO, said: “Miral has always been committed to creating world-leading experiences that not only accelerate the realisation of the Emirate’s tourism growth and contribution to the industry’s ecosystem, but also to have a positive impact on the communities in which we operate.

“With the launch of this new group strategy and framework, we are underpinning our commitment, making it integral to how we operate and ensuring that we are taking crucial action across our entire business, to benefit three key groups – people, community, and the environment – helping to achieve our long-term goal of sustainable development.

By aligning our focus areas with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we can help establish and promote Abu Dhabi’s leading position as a global destination in eco-tourism and sustainable tourism.”

In the last few years CSR has seen increasing relevance to businesses and stakeholders across the world. Therefore, Miral has developed its group strategy to focus on contributing towards society and the environment through innovative and sustainable community interventions, ‘closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and overseen by a dedicated steering committee.’



The group strategy has been created under eight focussed pillars that directly align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals – Skill Development & Livelihood, Education, Social Welfare, Health & Wellness, Promotion of Sports, Arts, Culture & Tourism, Environment and Animal Welfare.

Moreover, Miral’s strategy for the next five years will be fuelled by its focus on continuing to grow and develop Yas Island as a successful destination as well as delivering new leisure and entertainment destinations and ventures that generate sustainable value, while contributing to the diversification of Abu Dhabi’s economy.

Waterparks News

The latest news and announcements

1 AQUALIBI PARK EXPANSION UNDERWAY

Walibi Belgium is giving its Aqualibi water park a facelift with an expansion of its water slides to the tune of £25.7m.

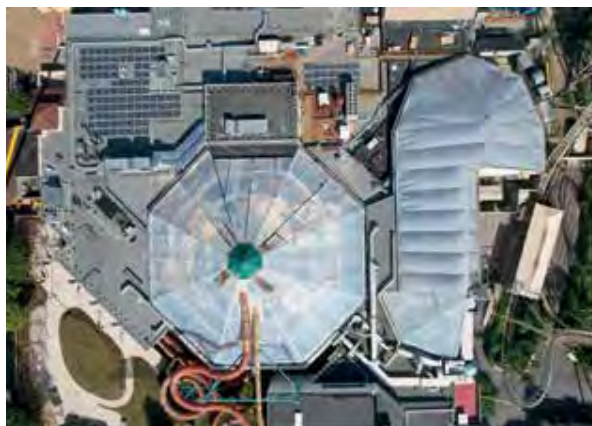
Aqualibi closed its doors on 28 August in readiness for the second phase of work on its extension project. This phase will focus on the creation of a new 25-metre (82ft) pyramid-shaped tower containing four innovative water slides, which will open to the public on 22 December.

According to Walibi Belgium, 'The Duelling RocketBlast' will allow 'two-seater buoy sliding duels' with high-speed descents and ascents thanks to innovative water jet propulsion technology. It is the first water attraction of its kind in Europe.

Another of its slide offerings will be 'The Rally Racer', offering a two-lane carpet race with different duel points - the first slide of its kind in the Benelux.

'The Canon Bowl' will lead visitors, embarked on two-seater buoys, straight into a large funnel where they will swirl gradually into a final descent.

Finally, 'The Tornado Wave' will propel visitors, installed in two-seater buoys, first at high speed in a bend along the outer wall and then into a gigantic wave - a style Walibi Belgium says is the first of its type in Europe.



The new tower, where the four slides will start and finish, is connected to the existing water park by a covered corridor that runs along the wild river Rapido. With this extension of nearly 1,000m², the total volume of Aqualibi will amount to 8,000m². The interior decoration of the tower takes inspiration through the world of surfing.

In addition, Aqualibi, which was voted best water park in Belgium in 2019, will open an outdoor relaxation and dining area in spring 2024 next to the current restaurant Palm Beach.

"This is the most ambitious project for Aqualibi since its inauguration in 1987," says Aqualibi Director Julien Demonte. "We are expanding the experience for our visitors by adding four new state-of-the-art attractions. These new features will consolidate our very diverse offer in sensations for an audience of all ages, and thus position Aqualibi as a reference park for a family audience in Belgium, and even beyond our borders."

The four new slides are not the only project ongoing at Walibi Belgium as early this year - the park announced the implementation of a Net Zero Carbon road map for the entire Wavrian site by 2030. The work currently being carried out aims to act on the energy performance of the water park and to decarbonise the remaining uses.

Cont. Over/





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Waterparks News

The latest news and announcements

Several levers are combined to reduce Aqualibi's energy consumption," state Walibi Belgium. The water park first reinforces all its existing insulation: transparent roofs, facades, flat roofs, and doors. New high-performance heating and ventilation systems are installed to meet the heat needs of water and partially ambient air. Energy-intensive facilities, such as the engines of water attractions, are also being replaced to ultimately reduce water consumption.

The Flemish park has also taken to photovoltaic panels to aid the environment. 5,442 panels have been installed by ENGIE with 81% of their production consumed on site. The annual production of the panels will prevent the emission of nearly 1,400 tonnes of CO₂ per year into the atmosphere

thus reducing its carbon footprint; 4,100 of these panels are installed on carports, permitting 637 parking spaces to benefit from the shade produced.

"We are particularly proud that Walibi trusted us to place and operate this solar installation located largely on carports," commented CEO ENGIE Belgium Thierry Saegeman. "We are also proud to have achieved it in record time - just over four months. These photovoltaic panels will make leisure even more synonymous with carbon neutrality while bringing a plus for users of the amusement park car park. Thanks to a win-win partnership, Engie is taking another step towards achieving our ambition to install 300 MW of PV in Belgium by 2030."



2 SIAM PARK UNVEILS LATEST WATER ATTRACTION



Siam Park, located in Tenerife, has unveiled its latest attraction: Saifa.

"In a remarkable feat of design and engineering, ProSlide, the pioneering force behind Saifa, has masterfully harnessed the complex topography of the park.

By capitalising on the park's natural rock formations, an ingenious design strategy has been executed," stated the park.

Saifa's course winds its way through lush greenery and skilfully carved channels within natural stone to make for a pleasant voyage through the park. Saifa inclines 100% steeper than traditional 'blaster' coasters and saves 50% less



in power consumption and benefits from a 25% reduction in water consumption courtesy of an integrated control system harnessing the best of efficiency and eco-friendliness.

"Siam Park's Saifa is not merely a ride; it's a journey into the extraordinary. Embrace the rush, savour the innovation, and immerse yourself in an adventure that redefines water coaster thrills."



Attraktion!

IAAPA EXPO EUROPE 2023 SETS HIGH BENCHMARK WITH NOURISHING WEEK

The recent IAAPA Expo Europe will be remembered for a record-breaking week of attendees, exhibitors and product innovations.

Vienna, Austria, was the host of the 2023 edition at the Messe Wien Conference & Exhibition Center. Throughout the four-day event, there were 12,289 verified attendees, 8,475 qualified buyers and 633 exhibitors. The trade show floor also broke records for being the largest at 17,670sqm. The event shone a beacon of light towards the leisure industries' latest products, innovations and trends.

The festivities commenced on Tuesday 26 September, with a glitzy opening ceremony consisting of strobe lighting, traditional Austrian dances and a string quartet proudly playing violins and cello. A welcome speech by IAAPA President Jakob Wahl standing high on top of the Wiener Riesenrad Ferris Wheel proved a highlight as well as an interview with Amanda Thompson OBE, ICAE, CEO Blackpool Pleasure Beach. A montage of what's new with the leisure industry was played to the captivated audience.

With a five-second countdown, the show was officially opened with a buzz of activity throughout the three main halls of the Messe Wien. A variety of pioneering innovations, products and services were on show for the 633 exhibitors, which proved the perfect platform



BoldMove Nation Signs Agreement.

to conduct business, educate, inspire, connect, and nourish members of the leisure industry. Attendees could discover a wide range of attractions, virtual reality presentations and arcade games.

InterPark spoke with a variety of exhibitors in Vienna. Here is a flavour of what we uncovered:

ATTRACTION!

Pigvasion, the first Angry Birds free-roaming group gaming experience based on characters and environments from the Angry Birds films, was unveiled at IAAPA Expo Europe. Created by Attraktion! for its PLAYNEO game system, in partnership with Angry Birds' creator Rovio Entertainment Corporation, with a deal facilitated by Angry Birds' global licensing agency IMG.

In Pigvasion, players undertake a mission to assist Red, the leader of the Angry Birds, in recovering stolen eggs from mischievous pigs. This immersive gaming adventure draws inspiration from the visually stunning Angry Birds Movies. It offers a fast-paced and engaging gameplay experience that transcends traditional mobile gaming, scaled up for entertainment venues.

Unlike VR games, PLAYNEO doesn't require specialised glasses, enabling guests to move freely within the gaming space, where interactivity is integrated into every surface. This feature makes PLAYNEO an excellent choice for fostering connections among people and families through interactive experiences.

PLAYNEO is an innovative free-loom group gaming concept that leverages immersive 270° projection



environments, eliminating the need for VR headsets. This setup allows for interactive play from four to 16 players, with three configuration options: Box, Trapeze, and 360 layout. These configurations can be installed in FECs, lobby experiences, and shopping malls.

Markus Beyr, CEO of Attraktion! said at the press conference: "Angry Birds IP aligns perfectly with the PLAYNEO experience, elevating group gaming by offering shared immersive adventures without the need for VR headsets. This enhanced connection among players fosters memorable engagements and encourages them to return, striving to surpass their previous scores and unlock new thrilling adventures."

HOLOGATE

Hologate showcased its latest Ghostbuster VR Academy, a training simulator that takes guests on a nostalgic journey of one of the world's most beloved franchises - a thrill-a-minute to become a Ghostbuster and immerse yourself in a parallel world of fighting ghosts and driving the iconic ECTO.

In the Arena game, academy members are attached to proton packs that vibrate when hit. Groups work together as a team in various scenarios to stave off ghoulish attacks. And over in the Blitz game, trainees will take control of a customised prototype ECTO hovercraft that spins and moves up and down to give an authentic gameplay. Players compete to see who is the fastest, most skilful driver in a high-speed race.

Leif Petersen, CEO, and founder of Hologate said: "Ghostbusters VR Academy offers players an amazing

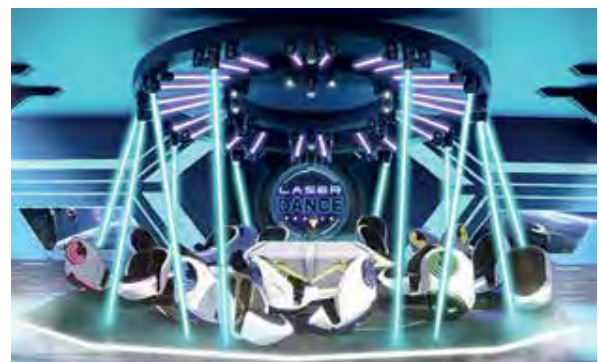


shared social experience that family and friends can enjoy. Our company-wide mission is to create a social play setting, an escape from reality that creates powerful, long-lasting memories of good times. Ghostbusters VR Academy is the perfect fit for our Arena and Blitz platforms, and we can't wait for our recruits to start their training!"

HUSS PARK ATTRACTIONS

The premier of the Huss Break Dance 5 model was unveiled during the Expo. Titled Laser Dance, it will feature at the Prater in Vienna. Hot on the heels of this installation will be further models in due course, according to Huss. Also added to the ranks of Huss Rides are Booster Revolution, Troika 2G, Magic 2G and Spinning Cruiser.

The announcement in Vienna comes after the company's previous installation back in spring: A new thrill ride opening at OCT Happy Valley Nanjing in China. Named The Giant Frisbee, it tops out at 43-metres (141ft) and reaches 110km/h (68mph). It opened to the public on 29 April providing Huss with another successful installation.



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SALLY DARK RIDES



Speaking to InterPark, President and Chairman John Wood shared his glee at the success of its trio of Sally Dark Rides' attractions and the popularity of Sally Dark Rides in Vienna: "It's been a great event so far. We have seen a noticeable increase in traffic towards Sally Dark Rides at our booth as far and wide as South America and Asia."

Sally Dark Rides has produced this year the opening of "Uncharted: The Enigma of Penitence" the world's first Uncharted dark coaster attraction at PortAventura World which is based on the smash hit film. It is the world's first indoor quintuple/fivefold (5x) LSM launch coaster and is the result of a first-ever collaboration between Sally and Intamin.

Sally created a Haunted Hotel family thrill dark ride at Funtown Splashtown USA called 'Whispering Pines Haunted Hotel.'

Meanwhile, Treasure Hunt: The Ride, which recently celebrated its grand opening in the city of Monterey. Treasure Hunt immerses guests in the tale of Captain Hippolyte Bouchard as riders journey to earn high scores battling skeleton pirates, interactive elements and collect Captain Bouchard's treasure.

Wood also shared a future project from the company: "We are working on a project with Paramount and Nickelodeon to create Sponge Bob's Crazy Carnival, which will take place in Circus Circus in Las Vegas and open hopefully by the end of the year. It is a really fun and exciting project to work on."

And on where trade has been most brisk, Wood confirmed that, "Spain has been good to us over the years. Generally, any tourist hotspots are popular for our products, Florida, California in the US and Spain to name a few."

Finally, Wood would pronounce his favourite Sally Dark Ride: "I am still very fond of the original Challenge of Tutankhamun attraction at Walibi Belgium. It was one of our original attractions and is still in its 21st season. It is still extremely popular, and I am proud of the fact that people say it's a great ride 21 years after installation. Also, to touch on that, our Sesame Street Ride was voted the Best Dark Ride in Europe, which is a huge feat considering our competition."

ALTERFACE



Alterface has unveiled two captivating attractions showcasing the team's innovation and adaptability. Popcorn Panic is an immersive theatre inviting guests to restore order after the "mischievous popcorn characters have disrupted the screen."

Alterface also revealed the groundbreaking Moviemax, a compact interactive attraction "set to revolutionise entertainment on the go". Conceived by Léo Verstiggel, the attraction's clever design, unveiled from a simple container, transforms into a beautiful compact setting reminiscent of a vintage Hollywood movie theatre, complete with an abundance of classic lights and iconic marquee signage. The setting features ticketing, a photo booth, a queue line, and seating for 12. Moviemax offers a unique choice between four films, catering to a wide range of audiences, from families and children to teenagers. Moviemax incorporates 3D technology and a range of special effects, including wind, water, stroboscopes, and smoke, to enhance the immersive experience.

Moviemax will make its first appearance at the Quinconces Fair in Bordeaux next March, followed by the Attractive Fair in Nancy in April. This will be followed by opening at the Saint-Tropez amusement park (Azur Park) throughout the entire summer season, returning to Bordeaux in October.

WHITewater

It has been a busy year for WhiteWater, having celebrated the opening of nearly 60 projects in 2023. During a press conference in Vienna, WhiteWater discussed its activities for the year. Chief Marketing Officer Una de Boer informed that it “has made some key appointments to its local team by enlisting specialists in slide path, architecture, and Performance Services to be based in the EMEA region.”

Jamie Charlesworth returns as Managing Director for the Middle East and India. During 20 years in the leisure and entertainment sector, Charlesworth's has worked throughout the Middle East with notable companies such as Emaar, Majid Al Futtaim, and SEVEN, one of Saudi Arabia's leading amusement developers.

As the market leads to further opportunities in Saudi Arabia's entertainment industry, WhiteWater appointed Hussam Nabil as Senior Project Manager for this market. Nabil, respected for his engineering expertise, contributed to large-scale developments such as Diriyah Gate Development Authority (DGDA) and King Abdullah Financial District.

Meanwhile, at the European regional hub in Munich, WhiteWater hired Diego Reckmann as Regional Director of Operations. Bringing a wealth of experience in project management, Reckmann leverages his comprehensive understanding of EN standards from his tenure at TÜV Nord and has enjoyed a decade-long journey in the water park manufacturing sector.

“We have been growing our regional teams over the course of three years, and the addition of top-notch talent like Jamie Charlesworth, Hussam Nabil, and Diego Reckmann reflects our unwavering commitment to deliver excellence in the entertainment industry,” said Geoff Chutter, CEO WhiteWater. “Their expertise and dedication will undoubtedly propel us to new heights in the EMEA region and beyond. With their leadership, we are well-positioned to continue setting industry standards and providing unmatched experiences for our clients.”



Elevated AquaForms water slide

WhiteWater unveiled two new water park products for the most important decision influencers in young families: children.

“Mini Blaster introduces small children to the exciting sensations of larger slides in preparation for graduating to the adult slides. Mini Blaster is designed with excellent sightlines for parents so they can rest easy on the sidelines and take unobstructed photos of their cute kids laughing,” commented de Boer.

Meanwhile, the highly configurable Elevated AquaForms provides children with hours of exploration fun with water, even in tight footprints. With Elevated AquaForms, the monopole design is raised on different levels, up to 33ft (10-metres) in height, to create a treetop canopy walk-like experience while freeing up space below. Guests, especially children, can explore the different paths and discover play elements and cause-and-effect features along the way. Through polycarbonate guardrails, they can see all the activities of the water park below while parents and lifeguards can better keep an eye out on them. Combined with a selection of thrilling body slides, children will be thoroughly entertained inventing splashing games on the structure and finding all the features.

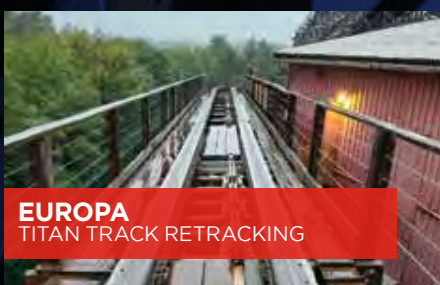
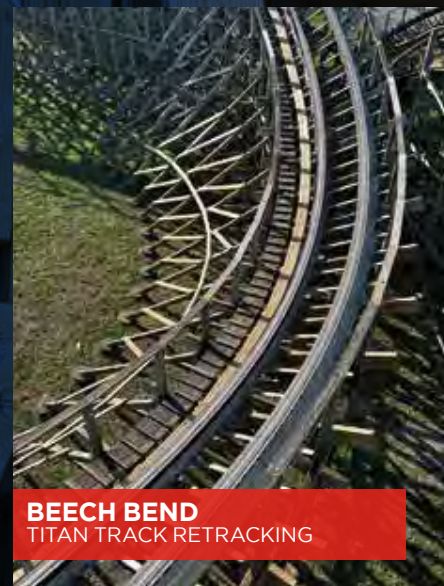
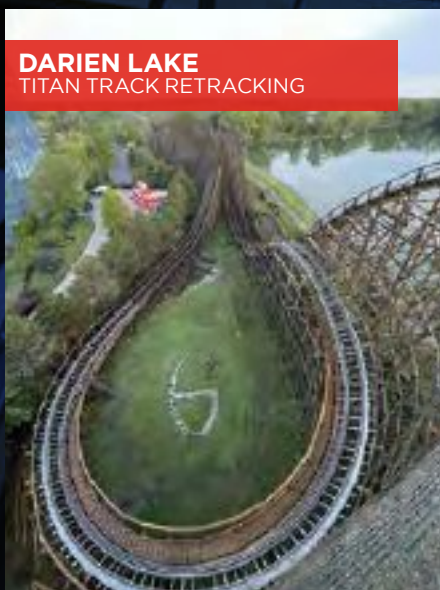
WhiteWater has not only been busy in waterparks but has its installations in hotels and on-board cruise ships - the partnership between WhiteWater and MSC Cruises a case in point, reinforcing its commitment towards cruise ships to include aquatic attractions in their guest offerings. Notable highlights include the maiden voyage of MSC Seascape in December 2022 and the recent christening of MSC Eurybia in June 2023.

The team is also looking ahead to 2024, which will see two of WhiteWater's largest European openings in the past 10 years: The first Endless Surf pool in the world will open its doors in the summer of 2024 while the first six-person attraction in Europe is set to open at Oceana at Liseberg, Sweden.



Mini Blaster water slide

A GREAT YEAR FOR GREAT COASTERS 2023 ANNUAL RECAP



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SEVERN LAMB

Severn Lamb's Jack Turnstall, Project Sales Engineer, said of the IAAPA Expo Europe show: "It has provided a great opportunity to connect with our clients and industry colleagues. The face-to-face meetings really help when we are starting new projects."

Turnstall also added his opinion about the event as a whole in Vienna, reflecting with positivity: "It was impressive to see that the European IAAPA is growing in not only size and numbers of visitors, but also quality of stands and exhibitors. I'm really looking forward to next year and IAAPA Orlando in the upcoming months."

Severn Lamb, a leading designer and manufacturer of innovative rail solutions, celebrated this spring with the successful completion of the Dayton's New Railroad project at Carillon Historical Park in the US.



Jack Turnstall

BOLDMOVE NATION



BoldMove announced its Immersive Theming & Media Group as strategic partnership with Polymorph and Eye-Opener, extending its successful collaboration to create more immersive visitor experiences.

"This collaboration is a great example of partners reinforcing each other to build high-quality themed attractions geared at fun and emotions," explained Anja D'Hondt, Managing Partner and Queen of Happy Hearts at BoldMove. "Our integrated approach engages all partners at the concept phase, with digital and physical components fully harmonised. This guarantees consistent quality throughout the entire project with customer and visitor satisfaction as our ultimate common goal."

"Fabrice Guichard and his Polymorph team, based in Bretagne, France, have been BoldMove's integrated partner from the start for all media content, animation and gaming developments. Their smart artificial intelligence applied in the gameplay engines brings fun for all players, yet without user complexity. With Eye-Opener founders Siemon Ariens and Lars van den Dungen it has been a natural fit since the first contact. Their team perfectly converts our creative ideas and designs into fitting decorations with quality materials, using innovative techniques."

The three partners have already proven a successful collaboration in design, media and theming for the interactive dark ride Champi'Folies at Le PAL.

ETF RIDES SYSTEMS

Speaking at the show Ruud Koppens, ETF Ride Systems President, said: "We are launching a variety of new products including a new ride in Las Vegas, which will open before Christmas. We are building a very nice ride for the UK with the theme of chocolate. Further projects include rides for the Merlin group and we are also refurbishing some of our oldest rides, some of them are over 20 years old, so a lot of things are happening and our factory is very busy."

On where ETF is seeing its particular market trends, Koppens confirmed: The trends of ETF are quite widespread, China used to be popular but now we are creating products in Saudi Arabia and America and creating four in Europe.

On how well its new products have been received, Koppens affirmed: "Our latest products are proving very popular, and people are happy with the reliability. We have customers with 30 vehicles with 99.5% success so that's why people like our products due to being simple, less maintenance, higher reliability and flexibility of the track bound MultiMover. ETF has produced around 750 trackless movers."

Koppens also gave a teaser for its home 2024 IAAPA trade show: "Next year the Expo will be in Amsterdam, Netherlands so we want to bring a surprise."



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BERTAZZON

Michele Bertazzon, CEO Bertazzon, gave his views on the landscape of the industry: "We are currently focussing on an evolution of our current products for travelling family rides, making them more portable and changing the aesthetics while remaining with a traditional touch. It is a pleasure to work in this industry and we are always proud when we see one of our products around the world."

In terms of the trends of the company, Bertazzon stated that, "the market is more stable now but there is a greater demand for portable rides. And although there is an increase in VR and augmented reality experiences, the market has shown us that there is not as much demand as originally forecasted five years ago. And there is always a market for traditional rides that people still want to experience for nostalgic purposes."

"We cater mostly for the United States and European market, but we are seeing that Asia is growing too so we have a footprint there as well as in Australia, North Africa and in some parts of South America."



Michele Bertazzon CEO

EMPEX WATERTOYS

Speaking to the President of Empex Watertoys, Wyeth Tracy stated the importance of this show: "We come to IAAPA Expo Europe because the Europeans are catching on to our water playgrounds in a big way. We are always developing something new with new concepts to showcase. One of our latest is dinosaurs. In the past we have created zoo animals and Aqua Circus for our clients."

Tracy disclosed the vast types of products and services Empex has in its offering: "Now we have 20 different themes with 450 different products. We are developing as we go along according to the client's requests."

"Water is a magical thing and both fascinating and welcoming for all the family, not just children. This is especially the case in hot climates where the summers are long due to the heat. You got to take the kids somewhere, so a water playground is a great option."

On the feedback of Empex Products, Tracy added: "We have been in steady business for more than 35 years, constantly selling our products so that is the proof of our success and how our products are well received. We have clients that purchased a product 20 years ago that have returned for a fresh attraction as they were so satisfied with the original product. We are mostly in all countries around the world and attend all the major trade shows."

And the secret to success? "The products of Empex Watertoys have longevity because the design is based on simple geometry and therefore never goes out of style."



Wyeth Tracy President

INTAMIN

Intamin has had a busy year launching new products and reimagining others including the opening of Toutatis, a steel launch roller coaster in Parc Asterix, France - becoming the country's tallest and fastest, featuring four launches.

In Spain, Intamin opened Batman Gotham City Escape at Parque Warner, the only multi-launch attraction in Spain; and PortAventura World opened its new multi-dimensional coaster called Uncharted: The Enigma of Penitence, the World's first indoor quintuple LSM launch coaster featuring the world's first side launch. Over in Japan, Fuji-Q Highland had its grand opening of its new LSM launch motorbike coaster named Zokkon.

In Abu Dhabi, SeaWorld Abu Dhabi gave light to the world's first dome ride theatre of Hypersphere 360. Visitors will travel the world's seas and explore the ocean's depths without wearing isolating headsets on a fully rotating and tilting ring inside the LED sphere. Also at SeaWorld Abu Dhabi the LSM multi-launch coaster of Manta Coaster opened.

Meanwhile, Intamin reimagined Valhalla at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, the indoor log flume water ride and one of the longest dark rides in the world. After closing for three years, Valhalla reopened last spring and upon its return was awarded Best Water Ride at the UK Theme Park Awards. "It has been a great year for Intamin with many grand openings. We have had challenges, but



Intamin team

Intamin always manages to overcome them. We have had a great show here overall too," said an Intamin spokesperson.

Future projects include Intamin's first Hot Racer model coaster in Europe for Walibi Rhône-Alpes under the name 'Mahuka.' The attraction has two powered launches at a maximum speed of 67 km/h (42mph) with 13 airtime moments. The ride represents a special moment for the park celebrating its 45th anniversary. Guests onboard Mahuka, (escape in Hawaiian), are invited to enter the heart of the remains of an abandoned temple, erected in honour of the God of Fire on an isolated island in the South Pacific. Mahuka will be accompanied by a new restaurant, Tiki Fruits.

RCI ADVENTURE PRODUCTS



CK Foo Director International Sales

CK Foo, Director International Sales RCI Adventure Products, gave InterPark a flavour of what innovations have been made with the company: "We have two ranges of products, harness and unharness.

Harness consists of our main product of Sky Trail, where people can move around over ropes and beams for a fun experience. People harness at ground level and can climb various levels depending on the height or if it's indoors or outdoors.

"With Sky Rail, people can glide along a course at a sedate speed and, as it goes slowly, it is designed for families, anyone from seven to 70. We also have a product called Sky Tykes, which is a children's version of our Sky Trail and goes underneath it at ground level. Family members can walk with a toddler of 2,3,4-years-old to get them zipping and enjoy the experience. It is nice to see multi generations trying our experiences and they are 100% safe from the moment your harness is on.

"Within our portfolio of products, we provide freestanding walls and frames against walls. We also create mazes called 'Amaze'n Mazes' and in November we will launch the new product where the adventure trail will go over the mazes to create more interaction such as people climbing up the adventure trail can shout out directions to their friends in the maze.

"The products that RCA Adventure produce are manufactured and sent out for delivery where it can take from two weeks to three months to build an adventure trail depending on the size and scale of the project."

On discussing the popularity of the company, Foo affirmed: "We sell three times as many products in the US market thanks to two key things: quality and safety. Hence, we receive repeat custom thanks to our reputation."

GOSETTO

Gosetto arrived in Vienna to present its latest creations called Monster Cars and Marco Polo. Speaking to Sales Manager Andrea Casagrande and PR Giada Gosetto, the team spoke about Gosetto's new attraction. "Monster Cars derives from the popular TV show. It is a four-seat with five cars with a diameter of eight-metres (26ft). The cars create different movements and have special effects while placed on an uneven platform to show the cars taking off and touching down."

"Marco Polo is another indoor ride designed with dragons which is fully customised. The dragon can move up and down and bounces with a floating motion of 60°. The gondolas have four seats and passengers can sit in front of each other or two in the front and two behind and is seven-metres (22ft) in diameter."

On discussing the biggest challenge with creating the attractions, Casagrande and Gosetto revealed: "We would say it is to create a ride that is great for all the family. To get the balance between enjoyment for the children but also adults. For that reason, our new Monster Cars are good because the adults can go inside the ride with children, and it is for the whole family."



Gosetto Team

When discussing what has changed in the market in recent years, they added: "Business is back on track and making good progress. We notice that even festivals are even more popular than before the pandemic."

VEKOMA

Emerald Park has teamed up with Vekoma and Jora Vision to create a duo of intertwining attractions: a new suspended thrill coaster and a family boomerang. Both will be located in the Irish park's new mythical land known as Tír na nÓg.

With an investment of €22m (£19m) to include zone concepts, design and creative storytelling, initial planning of the rides commenced in 2018 and will open in 2024.

Charles Coyle, General Manager Emerald Park stated that the dual attractions represent a 'game changer' for the park: "We are aiming to attract around one million guests thanks to the new additions."

But this isn't the only park opening a Vekoma ride in 2024, with a number of projects confirmed for next year by the manufacturer. Included in the list is an indoor family coaster at Bommelwereld in the Netherlands; a Kalypso family coaster and mine train at Energylandia in Poland; and a family boomerang and fifth Top Gun launch coaster at Fantawild in China.

Warner Bros' Movie World in Australia will also open the world's first Wizard of Oz precinct, which will include a family boomerang racer and suspended family coaster. Thrill coasters Tilt Coaster 2.0 will open at Cotaland and North-America's first super boomerang will rise at Six Flags Great Adventure.

Furthermore, a Horus family coaster will open at Santa's Village in Jefferson, a family boomerang rebound at Kings Island Park and a custom design family boomerang at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari!



Vekoma

Speaking at the show, Vekoma Rides PR Carin Davits beamed: "We keep innovating and we are excited about our record-breaking projects that have opened in 2023, while looking forward to the upcoming 2024 projects around the globe!"

From a product development perspective, Vekoma has officially entered the dark ride sector with the release of the Suspended Dark Ride. Having worked for years on the ride system, the suspended vehicles have the ability to swing underneath the track, which makes for a smooth ride experience according to the manufacturer.

"We're excited about this new product - it's the "next generation dark rides 2.0 for a full immersive experience. The first installation will rise in Asia, but we can't confirm yet what is the exact location," commented Vekoma.

Another new attraction in Vekoma's product portfolio is the interactive boat ride Beat It! Two boats line up, side by side, each with 12 drums and a team of 12 riders. The virtual captain of each boat starts the race with an explosive drum solo. "The louder and faster the team drums, the faster their boat climbs to the top of the lift. The winning team soars down the other side of the slide, splashing the losing team behind them".



Vienna 2023

Returning to the event as a whole, the IAAPA Expo Europe also served an important purpose for various educational programmes including 169 speakers with women representing 30 percent of the panellists selected to participate. An all-female panel discussion took place during Wednesday's CEO Talk and shined a spotlight on Natacha Rafalski, President of Disneyland Paris; Amanda Thompson, OBE, ICAE, CEO of Blackpool Pleasure Beach; and Susanne Mørch Koch, CEO of Tivoli Gardens. The meetings connected professionals together to pool knowledge and industry information under one roof with one common goal: to enhance and enrich the leisure industry and its professionals within it.

Added to this was the human aspect of the event with proceeds raised towards the IAAPA Foundation, which aims to attract the next generation of leisure industry professionals. On behalf of this initiative, more than £10,000 was raised through selling traditional Austrian Lebkuchen cookies. Meanwhile, a charity auction took place, selling off 10 lots of leisure industry products, including the Mack Rides original Eurosat Coaster from Europa-Park. In only 30 minutes, the auction raised more than £4,000.

As is traditional, the IAAPA Brass Ring Best Exhibit Awards were up for grabs - an acknowledgement dating back to the 1800s when rings were hung on carousels to pose a fun challenge for riders. Successfully grabbing a ring while riding the carousel often earned the rider a

prize, often including an additional free ride. Most rings were made of iron, but a few were made of brass, so grabbing the brass ring was a coveted and celebrated treat.

The IAAPA Brass Ring Awards honours this tradition by celebrating achievements of excellence throughout the global attractions industry. These are considered one of the industry's most prestigious honours. Applicants were judged on their booth design, branding, staffing, product in booth, and overall appeal.

Winners from IAAPA Expo Europe 2023 were as follows:

- 9-27sqm: First Place,**
accesso/VGS, Booths A-2825 & A-2827
- 9-27 sqm: Second Place,**
Xtraice, Booth C-512
- 36-54sqm: First Place,**
P&P Projects, Booth A-617
- 36-54sqm: Second Place,**
Petro Art Production, Booth B-1225
- 63 sqm: First Place,**
ProSlide Technology, Inc., Booth A-1301
- 63 sqm: Second Place,**
The Seasonal Group, Booth B-427

"Out of a remarkable 148 applications, these exceptional exhibitors have truly set a standard of excellence and



Team Vekoma Rides



Hologate team

made a difference to the show floor," said Jakob Wahl, president and chief executive officer for IAAPA. "Their innovation, creativity, and dedication are remarkable and a testament to the spirit of innovation at IAAPA Expo Europe and the importance of the attractions and amusements community."

The benchmark has been set high thanks to a productive week of engagements with the common opinion of the event being that there is great positivity within the sector.

"IAAPA Expo Europe 2023 has exceeded our expectations in every way. We are thrilled to see our community come together to exchange ideas and showcase the future of the attractions industry."

Meanwhile, Peter van der Schans, executive director



Sacoa Cashless Systems

and vice president for IAAPA Europe, Middle East, and Africa, added: "Vienna has been a fantastic host city, providing the perfect backdrop for this milestone event. The support of our members, partners, and exhibitors has been instrumental in the success of IAAPA Expo Europe 2023 and we are grateful for their dedication to our industry."

The next IAAPA Expo Europe will take place between 23-26 September 2024 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The feel-good factor of the industry right now means that already 431 companies have signed up to the event, allocating for 13,989sqm of exhibit space.

The leisure industry is in good hands thanks to the professionals InterPark spoke to. The wheels are firmly turning for a bright future - turning as much as Vienna's famous Wiener Riesenrad.

DIVING INTO THE THRILLS: DARK RIDES UNVEILED

Dark Rides

The dark rides sector continues to innovate, with developers making the most of the technologies available to them. Here, Features Editor Emma Davidson brings us the latest park installations, supplier news, and product launches operators can expect to see on the market.

INTAMIN

Hypersphere 360 Sea World, Abu Dhabi



The world's first dome ride theatre, Hypersphere 360 from Intamin is an all-encompassing virtual reality experience with an uninterrupted 360° dome view. Visitors travel the world's seas and explore the ocean's depths at Sea World Abu Dhabi without wearing isolating headsets.

The ride sits on a fully rotating and tilting ring inside the LED sphere, which supports the illusion that you are gliding through space. The ride features comfortable floorless seats with a range of special effects, too.

Kicking off with pre-show information, guests are then invited to walk into the dome, choose one of the 80 ergonomically shaped seats, and enjoy the experience, which also includes 4D effects like wind, scent, vibration and sounds.

Intamin joined forces with Attraktion! to supply this ride, which spans 17-metres in diameter and boasts 17 million pixels and 6K LED Technology. It is carefully mapped out to offer the most immersive experience.

LAGOTRONICS

The Gameplay Theatre

Developed in collaboration with MACK Rides, the Gameplay Theatre from Lagotronics is a combi dark ride that transports guests along different media scenes and interactive décor. After each scene, the vehicle turns on its own axis and visitors are treated to a completely new experience. The aim is for visitors to collect points by hitting as many targets as possible with their interactive shooters.

The interactive games are played on large projection screens with a realistic 3D image. In the décor scenes, visitors shoot at items to bring the scene to life and are then surprised by moving décor and special effects including light, sound and fog.



ALTERFACE

Popcorn Panic - Hamanako Palpal, Japan

Rainbow Dash's Weather Factory – My Little Pony Happy World, Shanghai

Nestled in the idyllic Hamanako Palpal amusement park, Popcorn Panic from Alterface is an immersive theatre experience. A must-visit attraction for all ages, Alterface closely collaborated with Watanabeyuka to power this attraction, utilising its cutting-edge interactive technology, high-quality gameplay, and beloved 'Popcorn Revenge' IP. Reflecting on the partnership, Kaz Kobayashi, CEO at Curiosity Japan said: "I believe Alterface is a wonderful partner with the ability to adapt to any situation. We're enthusiastic about continuing to create thrilling attractions together!"

Alterface has also recently worked on Rainbow Dash's Weather Factory. The ride, designed by Boren Group and enhanced by Alterface's interactive technology, takes guests on a journey with Rainbow Dash and her Pegasus friends as they soar through the skies. Riders feel the rush of the wind, the rumble of thunder and the thrill of magical weather manipulation. As a singular experience within the resort, the Rainbow Dash Weather Factory features DOF seats, an interactive shooting system, captivating 3D multimedia playback and breath-taking special effects.



Popcorn Panic

This 20-person interactive shooting motion theatre celebrates the beloved My Little Pony IP, owned by the global brand company Hasbro. "Professional, earnest, and accountable - Alterface is undoubtedly a trustworthy partner!" commented Mr. Gu, CEO at Jiangsu Boren Culture Technology Co., Ltd.

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BOLDMOVE NATION

FUSION



BoldMove Nation has recently unveiled its latest product, the FUSION, an immersive media dark ride. This innovative ride combines the thrill of midway-style dark rides with immersive theming and a captivating plot twist.

The FUSION ride occupies a compact surface area under 1,000sqm yet it features a series of captivating scenes that enhance the experience. Its high-quality theming and flexible media upgrades ensure longevity, and the unique back-to-back seating arrangement provides

an engaging user experience that can accommodate over 900 riders per hour. FUSION is equipped with fully themed and multi-sensory environments that utilise cutting-edge technologies, including AI, projection, light, and sound.

The ride takes guests on a mission to stop robotic fluffy creatures stealing candy in an Art Nouveau style factory. Players move from scene to scene using fixed devices to throw virtual ammunition at the creatures, with multi-layered gameplay making it accessible and enjoyable for



Champi Folies



Fusion ConceptArt



Champi Folies

A family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) are riding a dark ride vehicle. They are all holding light-up toys that look like stylized guns or cameras. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the toys and some ambient ride lighting.

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TRIOTECH

Carnival Chaos Hyper Ride Niagara Falls, Canada

Triotech recently opened the Carnival Chaos Hyper Ride at Clifton Hill, Niagara Falls. Clifton Hill is the centre of the Entertainment District of Niagara Falls, a world-famous destination that welcomes millions of guests across the year.

Carnival Chaos is a 6,000sqft dynamic dark ride that features seven fully interactive scenes, as well as programable digital theming. The exterior of the building accentuates the carnival setting of the ride, with vehicles driving outside so passers-by can see and hear guests.

"Hyper Ride is a unique award-winning attraction that changes the game for location-based entertainment venues," said Ernest Yale, President and CEO of Triotech. "This attraction delivers a destination park level

experience but for a fraction of the investment and space requirements. We have several similar projects in the planning stage."

Triotech's Hyper Ride features in-motion technology combined with a high-speed moving platform, creating a strong acceleration and providing visitors with a coaster-like experience. Additionally, the ride is interactive, allowing guests to compete to get the highest score with their targeting device.

As it requires less footprint than conventional dark rides, Carnival Chaos has been installed inside an existing arcade building with a very low ceiling, which allows Clifton Hill to optimise the most space. Hyper Ride was awarded the IAAPA Brass Ring Award for Best New Product in the major ride/attraction category in 2021.



Carnival Chaos HyperRide Exterior

ETF RIDE SYSTEMS

25 years of ETF

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2023, ETF Ride Systems, a leader in trackless dark rides and innovative ride solutions was founded in September 1998 after the company had already been indirectly active in the entertainment industry.

Over the past quarter-century, ETF Ride Systems has delivered cutting-edge ride systems which have elevated the amusement park industry to new heights. The company's commitment to quality, safety, and innovation has cemented its reputation as a trusted partner in the world of theme parks, FECs and museums.

The company has announced the launch of a new ride in the heart of the entertainment capital, Las Vegas, later this year. Looking ahead, ETF Ride Systems will also be expanding its footprint in Europe with new attractions set to debut in England and Germany, among others. More details about these projects will follow soon.

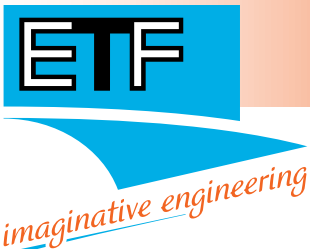
In an industry where innovation is key, ETF Ride Systems takes pride in the longevity of attractions. Two of its oldest and most beloved rides are currently undergoing extensive refurbishments, ensuring they continue to delight guests for another 25 years. The company is committed to preserving the magic and nostalgia of



Bazyliszek Legendia MuMo

these experiences while infusing them with modern technology and enhancements.

"Reaching 25 years in this industry is a significant achievement, and it's a testament to the hard work, passion, and innovation of our team," said Ruud Koppens, president of ETF Ride Systems. "We are excited about the future and the opportunity to continue creating unforgettable memories for guests around the world."



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SIMWORX

Cobra Dark Rides Sun World Theme Park, Vietnam

Simworx recently completed the installation of two Cobra dark rides into the latest park development at Sun World Theme Park in Ba Na Hills, Vietnam.

The attraction named 'Mắt Bay' (translated means 'Flying Eyes') consists of two custom-designed flying airship rides that combine different ride elements to create a variation of Simworx's popular Cobra Dark Ride. Within each show area, the open platform simulators themed as airships are mounted on dynamic motion bases, mirroring the action projected on 180° screens, immersing guests in the story unfolding in front of their eyes.

The ride design is representative of Simworx's Cobra dark ride, with its 3-DOF motion base mounted on a track system that allows guests to board the ride in a loading bay before travelling along a short track into the main show area. The ride design also incorporates stepped rows of seating to ensure guests' views aren't disrupted. With a capacity of 40 guests at a time, the attraction boasts a throughput of 400 visitors per hour.

The ride takes guests on an adventure in a trusty airship, where after an elaborate pre-boarding sequence they're whisked off into the clouds on a journey around the globe. From grazing the top of the Eiffel Tower to soaring over vast landscapes, guests will be in awe at the incredible scenery, while special in-theatre effects bring the sights to life with wind and aroma.



VEKOMA

Suspended Dark Ride

Vekoma has officially entered the dark ride industry with the release of a unique new ride system, the Suspended Dark Ride. The suspended vehicles can swing underneath the track, giving the ride a very natural feel and a smooth experience.

The four-person gondolas can also rotate towards scenes or face backwards and can be dispatched every 18 seconds, creating a capacity of over 800 riders per hour. The system can also rotate towards scenes for an optimal immersive experience.



GOSETTO

Champi' Folies Le Pal, France



Champi Folies

This interactive dark ride from Gosetto situated at Le Pal, France opened in April 2023. The family-friendly ride takes passengers on an adventure as they face an invasion of mushrooms. Visitors are tasked with shooting the mushrooms with their guns, imprisoning them in blocks of ice and making them disappear.

The transportation system was supplied by Gosetto and is based on six passenger seats with rotation. Gosetto also collaborated with Triotech (interactive system), BoldMove (design), Polymorph (media) and park Le Pal on the project.



Champi Folies

Dark Rides



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ADIPS CONFERENCE EXAMINES SAFETY ISSUES AND INITIATIVES IN AMUSEMENTS INDUSTRY

By Tim Walsh, ADIPS

Recently, ADIPS was delighted to present the Theme Park of the Year Award, Award, held at Chessington World of Adventures in the UK. The ceremony was a reminder of what a thriving industry we have, and it's right that we stop occasionally to recognise the achievements of the people and teams who make the magic happen.

We were then back at Chessington in October for the ADIPS annual conference. Inspection bodies that check rides at theme parks and fairgrounds up and down the country came together to consider current safety issues and initiatives to enhance standards. This is some of the work that members of the public don't see, that goes on behind the scenes to keep them safe.

It is clear that much work needs to be done. Health and Safety Executive Inspector for our industry, David Kivlin, flagged the non-conformances his team are identifying. ADIPS inspection bodies also shared safety issues and while extremely valuable, these updates highlighted the ongoing challenge we have in ensuring members of the public are enjoying safe and secure rides.

As part of HSE's work plan for 2023/2024, 48 visits had so far been completed, according to David's latest progress report, and of those visits 18 resulted in enforcement action. High speed rides, log flumes, Star flyers, Round-ups and Crazy Frogs were among rides inspected recently to ensure that they are safe for workers and passengers to use, and are being correctly maintained and operated.

HSE decided to focus on these particular rides, it said, as part of extra checks this summer following a number of incidents at different fairgrounds and theme parks. Several of these incidents are now being investigated by HSE.

Serious incidents involving amusement devices in this country are very rare but the consequences when they do happen can be catastrophic. The HSE update at the conference brought home once again the importance of having a system of ongoing inspections by competent practitioners. These checks are absolutely vital to the ongoing operations of parks and fairgrounds, and our conference also examined the auditing of inspection bodies, or IBs. Audits of IBs are an essential pillar of the safety standards framework in the amusements industry, which is why ADIPS is currently developing and enhancing its auditing function.

John Keen, CEO of training, compliance and consultancy organisation RKMS, spoke in his session about what



John Keen

is needed for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspections. IBs can gain accreditation from various schemes, and John highlighted some of the typical requirements for becoming an accredited IB.

These include impartiality and independence; insurance or reserves to cover liabilities arising from its operations; administrative requirements - the IB is a legal entity that describes the activities for which it is competent; and finally, qualified personnel with the appropriate training and experience.

ADIPS inspection bodies deliver high standards but audits are important to ensure those standards are maintained. With the IBs under such scrutiny, it's right that we invest in giving them the tools to do the job, so we were pleased to hear from asset management experts Pole Star, which have been working hard to upgrade our system for certification of rides.

All amusement devices inspected and certified under ADIPS must have a valid Declaration of Operational Compliance (DOC) confirming all relevant inspections have been satisfactorily completed and the ride has been certified as safe to operate until the expiry date on the DOC.

All registered amusement devices and DOCs are registered in the ADIPS central database of amusement devices. Pole Star's upgrade makes the system more intuitive and easier to use for our IBs. It also underpins ADIPS' Your Ride Checker initiative. These stickers on rides with QR codes will give the public greater confidence in the safety of the rides they are enjoying, and we were happy to update the conference on the first controllers to sign up.

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Clair Hain (L) and Michael Boodley (R) receiving the “Legends Golden Ticket” at the 2023 Golden Ticket Awards at Dollywood from Gary Slade.

CLAIR HAIN, OWNER / PRESIDENT OF GREAT COASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Great Coasters International, has been the go-to manufacturer of the world's highest quality wooden roller coasters for over 25 years. Here, Editor Beth Whitaker, speaks to the man behind the magic, Clair Haines.



Thunderhead

TELL ME WHO GREAT COASTERS INTERNATIONAL IS?

"Great Coasters International (GCI) is a renowned roller coaster manufacturing company recognised for its exceptional wooden roller coasters. Founded in 1994 and headquartered in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, USA, GCI has established a strong reputation for designing, building, and providing maintenance services for world-class wooden coasters worldwide. GCI's mission is focused on creating thrilling and immersive coaster experiences while emphasising the preservation and enhancement of natural surroundings. Our company thrives on delivering intense, smooth, and dynamic rides that push the boundaries of wooden coaster technology. GCI's roller coasters feature stunning elements such as banked turns, airtime hills, inversions, and steep drops. Our wooden coasters often incorporate unique features like terrain integration, allowing the rides to perfectly blend in with their natural environment."

WHEN DID YOU START WORKING IN THE PARKS AND ATTRACTIONS INDUSTRY?

"I started in the amusement industry at the age of 17, working for 'George H Ross and Son' to build Phoenix at Knoebels. One year later I was working for Charlie Din (who was the consultant at the Phoenix jobsite at Knoebels). Soon after the project, Charlie started a company called Dinn corporation and hired me. After many years, in 1994, I branched off and started my own company, Great Coasters, with Michael Boodley. GCI's first two projects were the Wildcat (1996) at Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania and Roar (1998) at Six

Flags America Woodmore, Maryland. It wasn't until 2006 that we went international with our products. The coaster, Thunderbird, at Huvivaltio Power Park in Finland was a huge hit and many riders exclaimed their love and wonderful experience with the woodie. As of today, we have 31 coasters, and counting, since 1996. Not including all the repair work we have done over the years.

"The fact myself and my team get to bring classic woodies up to the new generation standards makes this job wonderful. For example, GCI did work on the Cyclone at Coney Island and the Legend at Arnolds Park. Both jobs were successful at upgrading each coaster to fit the new safety standards, increase riders' likeability to continue riding, and satisfy every rider with a smooth but thrilling experience."

WHAT LED YOU TO A CAREER IN THE PARKS AND ATTRACTIONS INDUSTRY?

"I've always loved being hands on and have always been building something. Whether it be houses, commercial sites, or coasters! After I'd been a carpenter building houses and commercial sites for many years, I started my journey in the amusement industry at a young age. What brought me so much enjoyment and drive to stay within the amusement industry was watching all the riders go down the side ramp, after getting off the ride, with the biggest smiles and full of excitement. Hearing riders say how much they loved and enjoyed something I worked on, or built, drives me to continue my company."



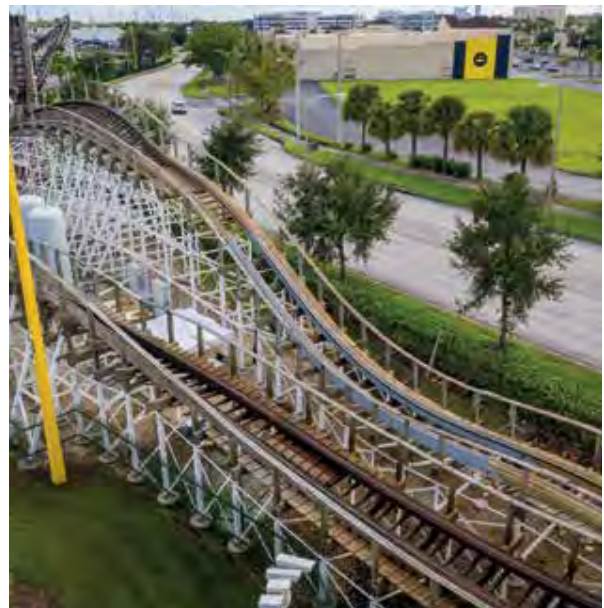
Thunderhead



Zambezi Zinger



White Lightning Fun Spot



White Lightning Fun Spot

WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF VISITING A THEME PARK AS A GUEST?

"My first time at a park was Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. Knoebels is typically the first amusement park for Pennsylvania residents. Most PA residents go to Knoebels for their first time as a baby all the way up to when they have grandchildren. My first memory as a small child was riding around on the carousel collecting the rings, driving the train cars, and riding the ponies."

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR HIGHLIGHTS DURING YOUR CAREER AND DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE PROJECT?

"Meeting many famous people while travelling or building rides, WWF wrestlers, Dolly Parton, Terminator people, famous musicians. Standing up on the platform or down below and seeing the riders enjoy themselves and being excited. And as for my favourite project... Always the next one I'm building!"

WHAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN YOUR SECTOR HAVE YOU SEEN?

"Taking our rides to the next level, we're always learning new technology in order to stop unscheduled maintenance. For example, the type of wood we use for our track, which was at first only southern yellow pine, now we have integrated IPE wood for the top two layers. Our steel Titan track is a newer invention, as we only specialised in wooden coasters previously, we are now opening a whole new market for our company by also offering Titan track and steel structure. GCI has also started integrating track to ledger connections in the builds and our infinity flyer trains are our newest product that can do any coaster element such as loops, barrel rolls, spiral lifts and so on."

Our trains are second to none, they don't destroy the rides and are easy to work on. Year after year, we learn about the problems in order to make the next build easier and better for our carpenters, the maintenance staff at the park, and riders."

IS THERE A PROJECT YOU WISH YOU HAD WORKED ON?

"Every ride that we bid on. We hate to lose!"

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING WITHIN THE PARKS AND ATTRACTIONS INDUSTRY?

"The rider's experience - watching riders enjoy themselves and witnessing riders become loyal GCI fans or fans to that specific coaster as they get on and off a million times."

WHAT MAKES GREAT COASTERS INTERNATIONAL UNIQUE?

"Other than the fact that we are one of very few wooden coaster manufacturers, we have the smoothest track designs and the repeated rider-ship / loyalty to our rides. Our company has little to no amount of downtime, always busy with work whether its new rides or repairs."

DO YOU HAVE ANY BIG ANNOUNCEMENTS YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT?

"Coaster at Six Flags Qiddya in Saudi Arabia and coaster in Xiangyan are recent installations. We are also crossing our fingers that our coaster at Bollywood Park in Dubai will also open up this year!"

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS MOVING FORWARD?

"To continue advancing our designs, trains, and materials for every up-and-coming project. Technology is always advancing, so we want to make sure we are keeping up-to-date and constantly educating ourselves to advance every year. Now, moving into steel track to do inversions and hopefully do a coaster or more with launch systems."



White Lightning Fun Spot





Europa Park Halloween Parade (source Europa Parks)

BOO TO YOU!!

By: Dennis Speigel

I have been amazed to see the impact Halloween has grown to have on the USA theme park industry. Started 50 years ago at Knott's Berry Farm, the Halloween celebration began as a weekend event known as "Knott's Scary Farm." It was a three-day event that launched the largest cross-promotional event in our industry.

People have always been infatuated with Halloween and that infatuation has grown exponentially every year since Knott's launched the first autumn programme of this type in the industry. This launch has had its impact not only in the USA themed entertainment industry, but has spread to 22 countries, each with their own unique way of celebrating it.

Here in the USA, a strong or weak Halloween performance can be responsible for either making or weakening a season's Q-4 numbers.

Back in the early 2000s, it was noted that the Bird Flu, which had been spreading in China, was making its way towards the USA around early autumn and was estimated to reach the USA at the time when the Halloween programmes were being executed. Mom, being the decision maker for the family on where the kids went at that time, pulled the ripcord on Halloween visits during that time and parks saw a precipitous drop in visits. Some regional and smaller "mom and pop" operations were affected. That year, quite a few park operations saw significant downturns in their annual performance.

The expansion of Halloween internationally has been an amazing phenomenon. In Mexico, Rene Aziz, the "Godfather" of themed attractions there, saw the potential a well-run Halloween programme could have among his guests and began offering haunted experiences that were some of the most well executed I had ever seen at that time, and were among the scariest! Lines were long and the popularity was, and continues

in Mexico to be, an extraordinary annual event drawing thousands of guests.

In Brazil, the "Godfather" of that market, Marcelo Gutglas, saw the opportunity to expand his annual product offering by creating a Halloween programme at his Playcenter park facility. I had the opportunity to see this programme and was shocked by the high level of quality that Marcelo offered. Playcenter paid homage to Michael Jackson's album, "Thriller", creating such a high caliber programme that, when Michael Jackson came to Sao Paulo to perform his two concerts to 100,000 people each night, he made time to go to Playcenter to see the Thriller programme at the park and was amazed.



While not celebrated in Germany, Europa Park has created an annual Halloween "Horror Nights" program that has become a choreographed spectacle enjoyed by tens of thousands of locals and tourists who come to be entertained and scared.

Several years ago, pre-covid, I was in Mainland China, both in Beijing and Shanghai. Those cities do not have a Halloween programme legacy or history dating back like the USA. However, it has created an amazing Halloween programme that has spread to the retail, food, and beverage sectors, as well as various entertainment venues. While visiting these two cities during their Halloween celebration, people, both workers and clients, were decorated in typical costumes, vampires, ghosts, wolves... I saw all types of ghouls that were not in existence 15 years earlier.

I remember being told pre-Covid (2017-2018) that over 600,000 people visited Universal Studios Florida just for the Halloween programme. Today, here in the USA, Halloween programmes continue to expand in terms of scope of attractions, size of attendance, days of operation and, most importantly, in revenues generated during the celebration. Many attractions now have programmes that, during the autumn, evacuate the parks early afternoon of existing guests, close, and re-open, selling another admission ticket to come in for the evening. Some attractions are charging up-sell tickets for add-ons such as scarier haunted houses, which they have added.

Changing weather patterns have also helped increase the importance of Halloween. Autumn weather here in the USA has become mild compared to 15 years ago. For many parks and attractions, another important aspect of Halloween's success is that the economy does not usually affect attendance turnout. People like the concept of being safely scared so much that they still come to parks even when the economy is in a downturn. Weather, rain in particular, is the biggest negative. If there are torrential downpours, that will affect attendance turnout.

So, it is clear people like to be scared and people do not mind coming out in huge numbers, paying steep prices to enjoy a Halloween scary experience. Isn't that Boo-tiful?!



Thriller (Source Playcenter)

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CALENDAR

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Fax: +1 321 319 7690
Email: iaapa@IAAPA.org
www.iaapa.org/expos/iaapa-expo

November 15 – 16

Family Attraction Expo, NEC, Birmingham, UK
Contact: Fortem International, 33 Colston Ave, Bristol, BS1 4UA UK
Tel: +44 (0) 2030264418
www.familyattractionexpo.co.uk

November 28 – 30

MAPIC, Palais des Festivals, Cannes, FRANCE
Contact: Reed MIDEM, 27 Quai Alphonse Le Gallo, CS 10026 Boulogne, FRANCE
Tel: +33 179 71 95 15
Email: Daniela.jakovljevic@reedmidem.com
www.mapic.com

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Contact: Tureks International Fairs co.
Tel: +90 212 570 63 05
Email: nergis@tureksfuar.com.tr
https://atraxexpo.com/en/home/

January 16 – 18 2024

EAG 24, Entertainment, Attractions & Gaming International Expo, ExCel London, UK
Contact: EAG 29-30 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6TD, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 204502 6795
Email: sales@eagexpo.com
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February 27 – 29 2024

IAAPI Amusement Expo, Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon East, Mumbai, INDIA
Contact: Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries, 404 Shreya House, Pareira Hill Road, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 099 India
Tel: +91 22 28386829
Email: tradeshowchairman@iaapi.org
www.iaapi.org

March 5 – 7 2024

DEAL 2024, Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE
Contact: International Expo-Consults (IEC)
Tel: +971 4 3435777
Email: deal@iecdubai.com
www.dealmiddleeastshow.com

March 18 – 20 2024

CAE Beijing 2024, Shougang Exhibition and Convention Center, Beijing, CHINA
Contact: Katie Wang, L&A International Ltd, 6 Penmere Grove, Sale, Cheshire, M33 4FP, UK
Tel: +44 (0)161 6100022
Email: katie.w@chinaattractionsexpo.org
www.chinaattractionsexpo.org

May 7 – 9. 2024

Saudi Entertainment & Amusement Expo, Riyadh Front Exhibition & Convention Centre, Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA
Contact: DMG Events
Tel: +971 448 0355
Email: info@dmgevents.com
www.saudientertainmentexpo.com

May 10 – 12 2023

2024 ASIA AMUSEMENT & ATTRACTIONS EXPO, China Import & Export Fair Complex, Guangzhou, CHINA
Contact: Tina Chang
Email: sales@grandeurhk.com
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ADVERTISERS

2024 AAA Expo	48
Alterface	41
Asia Attractions	17
Bertazzon	9
BoldMove Nation.....	43
CAE Beijing.....	19
Empex.....	23
ETF	45
Fabbri Group	13
Golden Crown	4
Gosetto	47
Great Coasters International.....	30+31
HUSS	33
Intamin	15
Interlink	27
Jinma Rides	IBC
Mack Rides.....	IFC + 5
RCI Adventure	OBC
RDC Bumper Cars	49
Seasonal Entertainment	33
Vekoma.....	11
Zierer.....	27
ZTAG	51

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